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Sent: 8/15/2017 2:44:33 PM
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Subject: Release: New Report Shows Blast Zones Lurking for Communities Along Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Concerned Citizens of Northampton County ♦ Nash Stop the Pipeline

Clean Water for North Carolina ♦ Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

For Immediate Release

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Aug. 15, 2017

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Atlantic Coast Pipeline Would Threaten Communities of Color, Low Income, Governor's Home County

Raleigh, Durham, Communities Along the ACP Route—Today, Clean Water for NC released a report, “High Consequence Areas, Blast Zones and Public Safety Along the Atlantic Coast Pipeline,” with figures of the 24 “High Consequence Areas” in North Carolina and the “Blast Zones” and “Evacuation Zones” that cover them. A High Consequence Area, or “HCA” is an area with 20 or more occupied buildings within a calculated distance from the center of the pipeline where there is a significant risk of serious property damage, injury or death from a gas pipeline leak. While ACP LLC has been using a radius of 660 feet as the Blast Radius, a widely cited technical report includes an equation that results in a blast zone radius of 943 feet. Hundreds of residents along the construction corridor, and within the blast zone radius from the center of the pipeline, would be at risk of severe damage and injury or death in case of a pipeline leak, explosion or fire. Some of the key High Consequence Areas for which the report provides figures:

HCA 1: Garysburg, in Northampton County, where the Mayor has been an outspoken proponent of the pipeline, has dozens of residences within the Blast Zone and many more within a 3071 foot Evacuation Zone.

HCA 6: near Nashville, in Nash County, is just one of 4 HCA's in the Governor's home county, where whole neighborhoods lie within Blast Zones and would be at risk if the pipeline is built.

HCA 24: near Pembroke, in Robeson County, is in a low income, mostly Lumbee Indian Community, with homes and businesses within the Blast Zone at the terminus of the proposed pipeline.

[FULL REPORT LINKED HERE](#)

“It's critical for public officials to recognize that their support of the ACP means that hundreds of residents will be put at risk in order to build a pipeline for which several analytical reports say there is no need, and from which only about 18 jobs would be created. The pipeline, if given final approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as early as September, would be allowed to provide a 14 or 15% profit for the owners, Dominion Resources, Duke Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas and other minor partners,” says Hope Taylor of Clean Water for NC. The certification would also allow the use of eminent domain to seize land for the pipeline if owners do not willingly sign leases.

Significant incidents, including explosions and fires are happening with increasing frequency on pipelines built since 2010 across the US, according to the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. That date is when utilities and pipeline companies realized that FERC was granting such large

returns on investment, creating a “rush to build” pipelines. These high profits have resulted in what many energy analysts warn has become an overbuild of pipelines, which may be underutilized despite construction costs in the billions of dollars.

Ericka Faircloth, Water and Energy Justice Organizer for Clean Water for NC, says, “What makes the ACP an even greater injustice is that the same low income communities and communities of color who will get serious impacts from the pipeline and will not be able to move away, will get no benefits from the natural gas, as connections would cost millions of dollars. And all NC ratepayers would pay for the pipeline through big rate hikes in the coming years, an economic injustice for low income consumers, generally living in older, less efficient housing. In fact, efficiency upgrades for older homes and businesses would create hundreds of permanent jobs and create large energy savings for those who need it most.”

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